



Neely Carlton Lyons spent most of her career as a lawyer who practiced with heart. "Lawyers are also referred to as counselors for a reason. "I meet people where they are and help find solutions tailored to their individual needs. Over the course of my career, I recognized that often answers were not found in a law book. Being a good listener is essential to helping your clients."

Notably, she started her career helping her community. Neely began her legal and political career in 1994 and went on to serve in all three branches of state government: in the *Judicial Branch* as a Law Clerk to State Supreme Court Justice Edwin Pittman; in the *Executive Branch* as Chief of Staff for Stephen Simpson, Commissioner of the MS Dept. of Public Safety (2008-2009) and as Counsel and Legislative Liaison to Governor Haley Barbour (2004-2008); and in the *Legislative Branch* when she made history at age 25 and became the youngest ever-elected Mississippi State Senator (1996-2004). Her senate policy initiatives focused on the convergence of public health and public safety issues such as drug control, mental health, addiction, domestic violence and child protective services policies. Neely was the author of Mississippi's 72-hour psychiatric hold legislation for the stabilization of patients in crisis. In her community, Neely worked with community mental health centers and local providers and represented indigents in involuntary commitment proceedings. In her legal practice, Neely represented behavioral health and treatment providers as well as impaired licensees seeking to re-establish their practices and relationships with their licensing boards. Neely works with healthcare trade associations to bring addiction and intervention resources to their members.

Deciding to get help is the first step in treatment, but returning to work and life is an uncertain path. She knows first hand; Neely's family has been touched by addiction and mental health issues. Her unique 360 degree perspective - policy, professional and personal - complements the Clere Consulting. Neely is a Certified ARISE Interventionist-I.

Neely is a writer and national speaker who volunteers with several recovery community organizations such as Young People in Recovery where she is a Board member. Neely advocates for People in Recovery by developing public policy strategies and coalitions for engaging the public and policy makers. Neely serves on the Planning Committee for the 2018 MS Opioid and Heroin Summit which will feature national and state public health and public safety leaders with over 800 attendees. She received the Mississippi Business Journal's Healthcare Hero Award for 2017 for her volunteer work in support of recovery organizations. Neely was an Advisor to the Mississippi ReEntry Council. In 2010, Neely organized efforts to address internet pharmacy diversion in Mississippi. In 2011, Neely helped coordinate a legislative coalition to require a prescription for Pseudoephedrine in order to stop meth labs. And from 2012-2017, she worked with stakeholders to host two Mississippi Rx Drug Summits addressing the epidemic of prescription drug abuse and served as an advisor to the MS Prescription Monitoring Program, and helped establish a medical board requirement for prescribing continuing education. Neely was General Counsel and Chief of Staff at the MS State Medical Association (2009-2014) and in this capacity served as General Counsel to the MS Professionals Health Program, Mississippi Physicians Care Network (PPO), and Mississippi State Medical Association Foundation.